

HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

GOAL

To create a community in which all members have the opportunity to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs, for the enhancement of their quality of life.

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Discussion: *Human Services are services and strategies that:*

- *Support vulnerable or “at risk” individuals and families in times of need,*
- *Address the social conditions that make people vulnerable or put them at risk, and*
- *Foster an effective and efficient system of services.*

Human Services that meet basic human needs and promote safe and healthy communities can be represented on a continuum, from prevention of crises, including crime, to assuring basic survival, to assistance in becoming self-reliant. This continuum includes the following spectrum of services:

- *Prevention and Early Intervention – Those services and strategies that reduce or prevent adverse human behaviors and social conditions that lead to crises, serious dysfunction or disability. An example of a preventative service is counseling – counseling may help avoid or reduce the severity of depression. Prevention by its nature means that absolutely nothing happens, its success registered only in later comparisons. Early interventions present the problems of all investments in growth – the dividends come later. There is a long-time lapse between intervention and payoff, which makes prompt demonstration of effectiveness impossible.*
- *Criminal Justice Linked Services – Those services that assist individuals and their families avoid involvement “with the system”. After-school programs for youth are an example.*
- *Crisis Intervention Services – Those services that address life threatening situations and other crises. Provision of food and shelter falls into this category.*
- *Rehabilitation and Support – Those services and strategies that provide treatment for individual and family problems or provide support to maintain or enhance their present level of independence. Drug and alcohol treatment is an example of rehabilitation.*

Objective HS-A: Enable individuals to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs by promoting an effective human services delivery system and enhancing their quality of life.

Policy HS-1: To identify opportunities and develop strategies that are proactive and preventative in their approach to human services needs.

and promote community awareness of needs and resources available.

Policy HS-2: Allocate City general funds for services that address the full spectrum of community needs.

Policy HS-4: Foster a community that is free of discrimination and prejudice.

Policy HS-3: Assess and anticipate local human services needs, provide leadership in the development of community responses,

Policy HS-5: Build support for and awareness of human services to create a community that values diversity, responds to the special needs of individuals and families, and shares the responsibilities and benefits of living in this City and region.

Objective HS-B: Make human services more accessible to the Renton community.

Policy HS-6: Encourage services to be accessible to all in the community by removing any barriers, including, but not limited to site planning, cultural, language, communication, or location.

achieve efficiencies through agency co-location and coordination.

One Stop Human Service Centers or multi-service centers allow individuals and families to access many services at one location. They are efficient because people are not traveling to multiple locations to receive help.

Objective HS-C: Create a caring community that nurtures and supports individuals, children, and their families.

Policy HS-8: Link services, such as transportation and childcare, to jobs to improve the ability of people to obtain and retain employment.

abatement may mean making people homeless. Ensuring there are community resources to assist these residents, before they are abated, is critical.

Policy HS-9: Promote efficient transportation and supporting site locations to jobs and services, especially for lower-income people, while planning local and regional transportation systems and economic development activities.

Policy HS-11: Collaborate and partner with non-profits, churches, employers, businesses, and schools.

Policy HS-10: Consider human services objectives in developing City regulations and codes. For example, enforcing code

Policy HS-12: Support the ability of residents to obtain, and retain livable wage jobs. This includes, but is not limited to job skills and occupational training, English as a Second Language classes, and communication skills.

Objective HS-D: Preserve and protect the existing housing stock.

Policy HS-13: Maintain the City's Housing Repair Assistance Program for low and moderate income homeowners.

Objective HS-E: Utilize resources efficiently and effectively.

Policy HS-14: The City's role is to fund, advocate, facilitate, plan, and inform by continually engaging service providers and community organizations in dialogue regarding the functioning of the present service systems, the emerging needs of the community and the building of a complete system of services.

Block Grants. The staff and Advisory Committee members advocate for those who cannot do so for themselves. As planners, needs are assessed and anticipated, and appropriate policy and program responses are developed. Staff facilitates in convening and engaging others in community problem solving to develop and improve services. We inform by educating and providing resources.

The Human Services Division distributes general funds and Community Development

Objective HS-F: Encourage collaborative partnerships between the City and school districts to identify and meet the needs of children and families.

Policy HS-15: Encourage cooperation with school districts, focusing on schools areas with attendance in the City, in the development and utilization of schools as a

focal point for the identification of needs and delivery of services to children and families.

Objective HS-G: Participate in regional and local efforts that address human services needs in the region and in the City.

Policy HS-16: Support and actively coordinate with local, regional, and national efforts that address local human services needs and ensure that local programs complement programs provided at the state and federal level.

Policy HS-17: Continue the City's active participation in the South King County Human Services Forum, the South King Council of Human Services, and other regional groups.